

## Message Text

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AMCONSUL NAPLES

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TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: GENOA'S COMMUNIST FESTIVAL - A PROVINCIAL DULLSVILLE

1. SUMMARY. THE YEARLY COMMUNIST (PCI) PROPAGANDA - FUND RAISING SPECTACULAR, BUILT AROUND THE FESTIVAL DELL'UNITA, OPENED SEPTEMBER 2, IN A COUNTRY FAIR ATMOSPHERE, AT THE GENOA INTERNATIONAL FAIRGROUNDS. COMMUNIST CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES PRESIDENT PIETRO INGRAO INAUGURATED THE FESTIVITIES WITH A DEFENSIVE SPEECH ON OPENING DAY. HE HAS BEEN FOLLOWED AT THE ROSTER BY SUCH COMMUNIST LUMINARIES AS CGIL PRESIDENT LUCIANO LAMA, PARTY THEORITICIAN GEORGIO NAPOLITANO AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPECIALIST SERGIO SEGRE. THE FESTIVAL WILL COME TO AN END ON SEPTEMBER 17 WITH WHAT HAS BEEN ADVERTISED AS A MAJOR ADDRESS BY SECRETARY GENERAL ENRICO BERLIGUER. ON-SITE OBSERVATIONS BY CONSULATE OFFICERS REVEAL THAT PARTICIPATION APPEARS MODEST AS IS THE CALIBER OF THE SPEECHES, THUS FAR. EXCEPT FOR THE COMMUNIST DAILY L'UNITA, NEITHER THE NATIONAL NOR THE LOCAL PRESS IS GIVING MUCH COVERAGE OR RELEVANCE TO THE FESTIVAL. THE FAITHFUL, MANY OF WHOM ARE REPORTEDLY

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CARTED IN BY BUSES FROM THE OUTLYING AREAS, APPEAR TO BE MUCH MORE INTERESTED IN THE FISHFRIES, PESTO DELICACIES, JUNKY SOUVENIRS AND ROCK-JAZZ MUSIC DISHED OUT AT THE NUMEROUS STANDS THAN IN THE ESOTHERIC DISCOURSES ON PARTY THEORIES AND DOCTRINES DISHED OUT AT THE MANY ROUND TABLES AND "DEBATES". OUR TENTATIVE CONCLUSION IS THAT IF THINGS DO NOT LIVEN UP SOON, IT IS GOING TO BE A DEADLY BORING WEEK AHEAD AT THE

GENOA FAIRGROUNDS. END SUMMARY.

1. ATMOSPHERE. AS ONE WOULD EXPECT, THE DOMINATING COLOR IS RED. RED STANDS, RED BILLBOARDS, RED FLAGS, SOME WOULD SAY, RED FACES. ENTRANCE TO THE GROUNDS IS FREE. NOMINAL FEES ARE CHARGED AT THE VARIOUS STANDS FOR FOOD, SOUVENIRS, DRINKS AND AMUSEMENTS OF VARIOUS TYPES. ADMISSION TO THE ROUND TABLES DEBATES AND PRESS CONFERENCES IS ALSO FREE.

2. PARTICIPATION. THE COMMUNIST PRESS CLAIMS THAT MORE THAN 500,000 VISITORS HAVE ALREADY BEEN THROUGH THE GROUNDS. THIS FIGURE IS TAKEN BY LARGE GRAINS OF SALT BY NEARLY ALL OBJECTIVE OBSERVERS. TWO SEPARATE VISITS BY CONSULATE OFFICERS, AT PRIME TIME, WOULD INDICATE THAT COMMUNIST FIGURES ARE EXAGGERATED. ATTENDANCE IS MODEST TO SIZEABLE. INITIAL CITY PLANS TO CLOSE THE ELEVATED PORT HIGHWAY LEADING TO THE FAIRGROUNDS TO COPE WITH THE EXPECTED LARGE TURNOUT HAVE BEEN SCRAPPED IN THE FACE OF NEGATIVE REACTION BY IRATE GENOVESE DRIVERS AND OBVIOUSLY BECAUSE OF LACK OF ANY NEED, FOR THE CROWDS NEVER MATERIALIZED. THE MAJORITY OF THE VISITORS APPEAR TO BE WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM NEARBY PROVINCES. READILY RECOGNIZABLE COMMUNIST AND LEFTIST INTELLECTUALS ARE SPRINKLED IN AT THE POORLY ATTENDED CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS. THE PRESS HAS BEEN CONSPICUOUS BY ITS MEAGER PRESENCE.

3. SECURITY. ACCORDING TO COMMUNIST FIGURES, THERE ARE SOME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SIX THOUSAND SERVIZIO D'ORDINE (SECURITY) VOLUNTEERS ON THE GROUNDS AT ALL TIMES. FROM OUR OBSERVATIONS, THE FIGURE MAY BE PRETTY ACCURATE. AT THE CONFERENCE ON EUROCOMMUNISM PERHAPS ONE/FIFTH OF THE AUDIENCE OF LESS THAN 200 DISPLAYED "SERVIZIO D'ORDINE" BADGES ON THEIR LAPELS. IN ADDITION TO PCI SECURITY SET-UP, THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF CITY POLICE AND CARABINIERI PROMINENTLY SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE FAIRGROUNDS.

4. CONFERENCES. THE COMMUNIST PRESS HAS ALREADY COMPLAINED ABOUT THE MEAGER COVERAGE AND/OR OBJECTIVITY OF THE "INDEPENDENT" PRESS. THE ONLY CONFERENCE CONSULATE OFFICERS ATTENDED, ON "EUROCOMMUNISM", MAY PROVIDE THE REASON FOR THE POOR PRESS COVERAGE OF WHICH THE COMMUNISTS COMPLAIN. BILLED AS A CENTER-PIECE OF THE FESTIVAL, THE CONFERENCE WAS HELD ON THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 6TH. IT WAS TO START AT 9:00 PM, BUT IT DID NOT BEGIN UNTIL 9:45 AND THEN IN A LOCATION OTHER THAN THE ONE ORIGINALLY ANNOUNCED. THE SPEAKERS WERE COMMUNIST FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPECIALIST SEGRE, SOCIALIST PIETRO LEZZI, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SPANISH, FRENCH AND SWISS COMMUNIST PARTIES. A NOSE-COUNT OF THE AUDIENCE INDICATED THAT THERE WERE NEVER MORE THAN 180 PEOPLE IN THE AUDITORIUM AT ONE TIME, A SIZEABLE NUMBER OF THEM BEING COMMUNIST AND CITY SECURITY TYPES.

EACH SPEAKER MADE 15-MINUTE SET SPEECHES. AT THE END, THERE WAS TIME FOR ONLY TWO QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR. THE AUDIENCE WAS EITHER DISINTERESTED, BORED OR CONFUSED BY THE SPEECHES AND THE FORMAT. THE MAJORITY OF THOSE THAT WERE PRESENT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CONFERENCE WERE NOT THERE AT THE END OF IT. PREDICTABLY, THE SPEAKERS DEALT PRIMARILY WITH THEIR OWN VERSIONS OF "NATION PATHS" TO SOCIALISM IN WESTERN EUROPE. SEGRE SPEECH WAS CERTAINLY THE MOST ARTICULATE OF THE LOT. HE DEFINED COMMUNISM AS "SOCIALISM IN DEMOCRACY" AND DEFENDED HIS PARTY'S "DEMOCRATIC" CREDENTIALS. HE REPEATED PCI WELL-KNOWN PROTESTATIONS OF RESPECT AND SUPPORT OF DEMOCRATIC PLURALISM AND "ALTERNATION TO POWER". ALL SPEECHES WERE RECEIVED WITHOUT ANY APPLAUSE WHATSOEVER FROM THE AUDIENCE. THE ONLY APPLAUSE WAS GIVEN TO A BRITISH HISTORIAN PEROG ALLUM, WHO, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RISING FROM THE AUDIENCE, IN REASONABLY GOOD ITALIAN, CHASTIZED THE PANEL FOR "IMITATING THE AMERICAN MODEL" INSTEAD OF CREATING AND PROMOTING A TRULY NEW EUROPEAN ONE.

CONCLUSIONS. FROM OUR OWN OBSERVATIONS, FROM THE ACCOUNTS IN THE PRESS, AND FROM WHAT WE HEAR FROM OUR DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES AND LOCAL NON-COMMUNIST POLITICIANS, WE COME TO THE TENTATIVE CONCLUSION THAT THE FESTIVAL, THUS FAR AT LEAST, HAS NOT BEEN THE POLITICAL SUCCESS THAT THE COMMUNISTS AND MOST OTHER OBSERVERS HAD ANTICIPATED. PERHAPS THINGS WILL LIVE UP IN THE DAYS AHEAD. IF THEY DO NOT, THE FAIRGROUNDS WILL HAVE TO ENDURE A BORING WEEK AHEAD UNTIL BERLINGUER SOCKS IT TO THEM ON SEPTEMBER 17. DISCIULLO

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